

Approved For Release 2000/08/31 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100100007-0

SCM
CLASSIFICATION
CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

25X1X7

AFFAIR. BY WAY OF EXPLAINING HIS CONTINUED PRESENCE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SEVIAN STATED THAT HE WAS REMAINING AT HIS POST TO GIVE THE LIE TO WESTERN PRESS REPORTS THAT THE SOVIETS WERE INVOLVED IN THE COMINFORMIST CASE. HE ALSO STATED THAT SOVIET-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS WERE QUITE NORMAL AND FRIENDLY. SEVIAN, OF COURSE, MADE NO MENTION OF THE FACT THAT YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE PRESS STORIES AND THAT MOSCOW ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO WITHDRAW HIM BECAUSE IT FEARED HE WOULD BE DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA.

BY KEEPING SEVIAN IN BELGRADE, MOSCOW HAS TOSSED THE BALL BACK TO THE YUGOSLAVS. THE SOVIETS MAY NOW HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT BELGRADE WILL NOT DECLARE HIM PERSONA NON GRATA. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY MAY HAVE DECIDED TO MOUNT A MODEST DIPLOMATIC COUNTERATTACK, FORCING BELGRADE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND THEREBY BEAR SOME OF THE ONUS, FOR A FURTHER DOWNTURN IN RELATIONS.

WE THINK THE FORMER IS MORE LIKELY SINCE IT IS MORE IN KEEPING WITH MOSCOW'S DESIRE TO DEEMPHASIZE THE COMINFORMIST AFFAIR AND MITIGATE ITS EFFECT ON SOVIET-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS.

NONETHELESS, THE SOVIETS HAVE MISCALCULATED BADLY THROUGHOUT THIS
DATE:
ORIG:
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EXT:

RELEASING OFFICER

CLASSIFICATION

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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FORM 4C

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AFFAIR AND ONE MORE MISCALCULATION WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING.

WATCHING THE OUTCOME WITH SOME INTEREST WOULD BE THE HUNGARIAN
AND CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADORS TO YUGOSLAVIA--THE OTHER TWO DIPLO-
MATS IMPLICATED. THEY ARE PRESENTLY IN THEIR HOME CAPITALS
ALLEGEDLY FOR CONSULTATIONS. E-2 IMPDET-H

25X1A9a

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